

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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HENRY L. GREEN, Sunday Editor

OLIVE STARCHER, Society Editor

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Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20 and 34 years ago

10 YEARS AGO TODAY

May 1, 1940

(It Was Wednesday)

B. F. Irvine, blind editor of Oregon Journal and former Jackson county resident, dies in Portland.

Grants Pass population increases 26 per cent over 1930; now 5,789 people.

The Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Mintle, Ashland, observe 50th wedding anniversary.

April building permits in Medford totaled \$18,345.

F. E. Sampson company new retail feed and seed store to open here Saturday.

20 YEARS AGO TODAY

May 1, 1930

(It Was Thursday)

Apple thinning in local orchards expected to need more laborers than usual.

April building permits totalled \$43,755 with most of it for 10 new buildings.

Fire department adding finishing touches to tennis court in rear of station.

Recheck of local census shows more than 11,000 in city.

34 YEARS AGO TODAY

May 1, 1916

(It Was Monday)

Mrs. C. D. Hoon, Medford, elected recording secretary, and Mrs. E. D. Briggs, Ashland, first vice-president of Women's federation.

Martin J. Reddy offers silver cup to high school tennis player with highest score in current tourney.

Holland hotel observes first anniversary. John A. Westlund is manager.

New Metal Screen

Factor of Safety

For Jet Aircraft

Dayton, O., May 1—(U.P.)—Officials of Wright-Patterson field today announced development of a metal screen that will prevent objects from being sucked into jet engines at speeds of 625 miles an hour.

Air force engineers said any small object sucked into an axial-flow turbojet engine at high speeds could completely wreck fighter aircraft.

Makes Flying Safer

The grids currently in use are able to withstand the impact of small objects only at speeds up to 275 miles an hour. The new grid, developed at the University of Kentucky, will make jet flying safer, both on take off and in combat.

The newly-developed grid has been effective in preventing 50 caliber cartridge cases from entering jet engine air intakes at velocities of 625 miles an hour or more.

The final grid to be developed under the current project is expected to withstand small particles at speeds of 700 miles an hour.

Design Important

Engineers said the design of the grid is more important in halting the particles than the metal from which it is made.

Grid construction in the project permits some particles to glance off specially tilted grid blades.

On fighter craft, the new screen grid will be mounted to permit the pilot to retract it after take-off in order to gain

Nix on the Nixies

One of the economy measures recently inaugurated by the Post Office Department will make it incumbent upon patrons to correctly and adequately address mail if they wish to be assured that it will reach the addressee. No longer will the simple address: "Joe Doakes, Medford, Ore." without street address or other helpful hint as to location, be sufficient.

THE DEPARTMENT is eliminating the directory service through which inadequately addressed mail has heretofore been processed. In the case of Medford this will mean that 400 to 500 pieces daily which are received without proper address will just not be given the laborious attention that such mail has been receiving.

Letters without street or route address, or otherwise improperly directed, are succinctly and disgustingly referred to in post office parlance as "nixies." The "nixies" annoy postal workers no end because one such item may take more time and effort than the delivery of several hundred which have been properly addressed.

THE REDUCTION in carrier service here from two deliveries daily to one, will work no particular hardship on patrons, and neither will it bring any substantial economy as it is estimated that the reduction in Medford post office personnel will not total over four at the most.

In the national picture, the service curtailments ordered by Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson are expected to be more deeply felt and it seems entirely probable that the department had planned it so.

DONALDSON'S "economy" move has little semblance to the action recommended in the Hoover Report. The latter embodied a long list of mechanizations of postal operations, accounting changes, organizational and administrative reforms.

The Postmaster General by his abrupt order, apparently hopes to jar congress into action on Senate Bill S2213 which would take the post office out of politics once and for all, as recommended by the Hoover Commission.

CONGRESS has had the bill for months. The senate subcommittee reported it favorably but the committee as a whole has failed to act. President Truman, Former President Hoover, the bipartisan Hoover Commission, Postmaster General Donaldson, and the various national associations of postmasters, letter carriers and railway mail clerks, all favor the measure.

AS THE Hoover Commission pointed out in its report to congress: "Ambition is discouraged and efficiency reduced by the political selection of postmasters." Moreover, it was felt that the 400,000 hard-working postal employees deserve to see a ray of light in the haze of outmoded procedures and policies under which they have labored for decades.

THE POST OFFICE is a big business and as a business operation it is potentially self-sustaining. It is far from self-sustaining, however, for an archaic structure, obsolescent procedures, outmoded equipment, a maze of laws and regulations fettering the personnel and hampering efficiency, politics, hidden subsidies and a cumbersome budgeting and accounting system all contribute to the hopeless confusion.

The latest audit shows that revenues of the post office are \$1.3 billions a year. It employs 500,000 persons, operates 42,000 branches and maintains 24,000 buildings, maintains a fleet of 10,000 vehicles, transports and delivers more than 37 billion pieces of mail annually, conducts 800 million transactions in money orders, collect deliveries, etc., and runs a "bank" of four billion depositors and accounts totaling \$3.4 billions.

THE HOOVER Commission found that about \$140 millions a year could be saved by modernizing the organization, methods and equipment. Annual losses could be curtailed an additional \$114 millions a year by fixing new rates on specialized items.

That is a lot of money. It is part of the \$3 billions a year which the Hoover Commission revealed is being spent needlessly by the federal government as a whole.

POSTMASTER General Donaldson, a career man himself, having come up through years of post office duty, must hope that his recently announced curtailments of service will cause public outcry loud enough to spur action by congress.

Congress should forego its patronage power in postmasterhips, it should forget its fear of unfavorable political reaction to postal rate increases and act at once to streamline the service and arrest the constantly mounting deficit of the department, which now exceeds \$555 billion.—E.C.F.

greater cruising range. In combat, the grid would be lowered into position for maximum engine protection from cartridge cases, shrapnel and plane parts.

BALL OF FIRE SEEN

Portland, Ore., May 1—(U.P.)—Mrs. John Nagel said today that she, her husband and several friends saw a "ball of fire" flying over Portland's northeast district last night. Mrs. Nagel said the fireball looked about the size of a football.

Out of the average consumer's dollar, 4 cents goes for medical care in the United States. More than half of this covers the services of doctors, dentists, nurses and others, while the rest goes for drugs, appliances and hospitals.

The food industry is the largest in the country. Before the war, one out of every four workers worked in it—on the farms, in factories, in stores.

Crosstown

by Roland Coe



"Y' mean I gotta take ANOTHER bath? Gee whiz! I just HAD one 'bout an hour ago!"

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

The other day Herbert Hoover proposed in effect, that with United Nations stalemated by Russia, we might as well scrap it and put together a new international organization of peoples we can work with.

MUCH as I respect Hoover, I don't know that I can go along with that. When some old so-and-so is scheming to do you dirt, you'd better stick close to him and WATCH him. If you shut yourself clear away from him, you'll have far fewer opportunities to find out what devilry he's up to.

It's a good idea to belong to the same service club your competitor does. In that way you can watch his curves and get a lot of good ideas on how to handle the old hellion.

THE Southern Bell Telephone company (headquarters Atlanta) is having trouble with slugs dropped in pay telephones. Phony quarters are the worst. Last year they took in 53,205 of them, which set the company back \$13,300. The loss on nickel and dime slugs was relative insignificant.

A high-up official says they get more slug trouble in Miami than any other Florida town, which makes sense two ways. Miami is bigger than any other Florida city and in addition it attracts more of the kind of people who CHEAT for a living.

BY THE way, you'd be surprised at the number of letters by newspapers that leave a pile of papers at corner stands with a receptacle to drop your money in. The system seems to put people on their honor and seldom indeed do they fail to leave the money. Intricate coin-in-the-slot machines, on the other hand, CHALLENGE us to beat them if we can.

WE JUST got a piece over our teletype about cutting federal excise taxes. ("Excise tax" is what the semanticists call a good word. It means exactly the same as "sales tax" but sales tax is a bad word. An excise tax is a sales tax that has gone to charm school and got all prettied up.)

The piece tells about a lot of KINDS of excise taxes, and some of them stump me. Did you know there's a 10 per cent tax on BABY BOTTLE WARMERS? I didn't. There is also a federal excise tax on BURGLAR ALARMS.

THE only explanation I can think of is that you never can tell what a lot of politicians will do when they get together in Washington.

Federal excise taxes are supposed to be levied on luxuries, or at least things we could do without if we had to. I suppose these mighty brains that make our federal laws figure the baby's bottle can be warmed in a pan on the back burner of the stove, so nobody NEEDS a special gadget.

AND the burglar alarms? Well, nobody EVER knows how a politician in Washington will reason.

FOR a long, long time our fatherly government in Washington has been slapping a tax of 20 per cent on what we spend in night clubs. The boys with the paring knife are talking of

cutting it down to 10 per cent. Why?

Again I wouldn't know. Maybe they figure that in these modern days it's the luxuries that we HAVE to have, whereas we can do without the necessities. They wouldn't be so far off, at that. I think we'll all agree it's the luxuries that put the real crimp in the family budget.

THAT reminds me again of the strip-tease joint where the two Chicago conventioners got into trouble the other night. The strip-tease girls GET MONEY for shaking off their clothes in public. Up in British Columbia, the Doukhobor women are doing it for nothing.

They've even invented a new technique. According to the teletype they put a drawing around the necks of the Mother Hubbards they seem to favor as garments. A sudden yank on the string leaves them in their birthday clothes—with the cops who are trying to cover them up with blankets blushing furiously.

I FIFE in this modern world is a strange and wonderful experience. I wouldn't miss it for ANYTHING.

Counting Noses By Mail May Set Pattern for 1960

Detroit, May 1—(U.P.)—Counting noses in the 1960 census may be a lot different than it was this year, a census supervisor said today.

Edwin P. Slabaugh, who directed the count in Michigan and Ohio, said the census bureau's count by mail in two Michigan counties and one Ohio county "worked out wonderfully and may set the pattern for 1960."

Residents in Ingham and Livingston counties, Mich., and Franklin county, O., participated in the self-enumeration plan. They were the only two areas in the nation using the test program.

Forms Not Filled

Census takers, officially called "listers," delivered forms to each home but did not fill them out.

Instead, they asked the householder to fill it out himself and mail it to the census bureau. The "listers" made the rounds of homes in their area several days before the official April 1 opening of the census.

"We received more than 100,000 returns in Columbus in the first three days of the census," Slabaugh said.

Slabaugh said the plan showed "real possibilities" and "will be considered for use in the 1960 census."

He said, however, that it would be "five or six years" before any decision is made on how the 1960 census will be taken.

Census blanks given residents in test areas contained the same questions asked all other Americans. The forms differed in appearance, however.

Returns Checked

Testers checked the returns for mistakes. Many minor errors were corrected by telephone.

Slabaugh said that the bureau could not determine at the present time the percentage of returns received "but it was very high." Testers went back to the homes of those who failed to mail the form in and asked the

OUT OF THE WOODS

By Jim Stevens

Harlem Housing . . .

Social dynamite has been sputtering on the fuse for too many years in the world's worst slum districts—the big-town areas in the East where citizens of Afro-American descent make their homes. In July, 1933, I came back to the Northwest after living too close for comfort to these explosive centers in Detroit, Gary and Chicago. And I had seen Harlem, the shame of New York City.

I still think it's our business out here. Anyhow, it is lumber business, for the heart and center of that slum problem is housing. In 1933 I was upset to see all hands in this region clamoring for dam-building on the Columbia River as the answer to unemployment in Washington and Oregon, when it was so obvious that mass clearance of the pest houses, rat nests, disease incubators and worse in such miserable human hives as Harlem make by far the most jobs for this lumber-producing section of the country.

But all I got was hoots. Everybody was dam-crazy. Nevertheless, it took a new world war to provide real justification for Grand Coulee. And meanwhile the slums have rotted on in the big towns. For all the windy talk of public housing, the Federal Government has done practically nothing about slums. The proposed subsidy housing measures are for tory housing that competes with private business.

THE FORLORN HOPE

The only place that slum reclamation has been achieved is in Baltimore. There, strictly on a private enterprise plan, close to 500 blocks of hellholes have been taken apart, cleaned up, modernized, made fit for human being to live in and rear families—and at no drastic increase in rents.

Now, three or four years later, a similar move is on for Harlem housing. A series of articles in the New York Sunday Times lights a forlorn hope for it. The basic problem is money. The Times explains that Harlem building stalemate—with a low-rent private housing project by Metropolitan Life as the only important exception—this way: "Lack of adequate financing for really investors, builders and owners . . . Institutional money has shunned more of the district since the period of distress foreclosures in the Nine-

teen Thirties . . . Some realty experts are suggesting that the banks meet the challenge by pooling funds to carry out a large-scale development program. Such a plan would distribute the risk . . . It might involve rehabilitation of entire blocks of slums which are found to be structurally sound or the construction of new buildings."

On the following Sunday Times headlines reported that "Realty Interests Favor Bank Pool for Harlem Work. Brokers Agree New Financing Policy Is Essential to Help Rebuild Slums."

And so the first ray of hope shines for Harlem, on the Baltimore private building industry plan has done a real job for the poorest people.

These older slum buildings are lumber framed, for the most part, and the frames are perfectly fit for the patterns of modernization into attractive apartments for low-cost rentals. Where new construction is in order on the low-cost private building and financing plan, lumber remains a basic building material. Modernization of old residences is a type of business that will grow in importance through this year and the next, becoming really big in 1952, the experts agree.

I still claim this Harlem deal should have started in 1933. Better late than never, though, and it is going ahead in the way of the American system.

More Requested

The South Dakotan said the commodity credit corporation has close to \$5 billion now invested in farm surpluses or in crop loans to farmers. He said it recently requested \$2 billion more to carry on its price support program.

"Chance the program to a self-supporting one," Lovre said, "and you have eliminated all need for this money. A saving of \$7 billion would more than balance the budget."

Lovre said records show that "every man, woman and child in this country now has \$30 invested in some phase of the present Two-Price System."

Lovre's farm plan would provide for a two-price system. One would guarantee farmers parity, so-called "fair" prices for products sold to meet domestic consumption demands; the other would provide for sale of surplus commodities on the open market for whatever they might bring.

The program would be financed through a "processing" tax which farmers would pay on sales of their produce in excess of their marketing quotas. If a farmer wanted to sell more than his marketing quota, he would have to pay a tax set at a level to enable the government to sell the surplus abroad without losing any money.

wheat to pigs at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Alfred Peile's home, May 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Those present were: Eddie Peile, Vernon Baldwin, Charleen Peile, Jeffery Billingsley, and Bud Gelespie.

Americans nowadays are eating less meat than their grandfathers did. Per capita meat consumption in the United States now stands at about 137 pounds, compared to 152 pounds in 1900.

WEATHER

By United Press Northern California. Mostly cloudy today and tonight with light rain from San Francisco and Sacramento north extending south to Salinas and Stockton late this afternoon. Partly cloudy with a few showers Tuesday. Cooler northern interior today and in southern interior Tuesday. Southerly wind 15-30 mph from Point Reyes north today but southwest to west 12-25 mph otherwise.

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Angoras Said Needed For Mohair Production. Portland, May 1—The Pacific Wool Growers' marketing agency said today that growers of mohair in the Willamette valley will receive better prices for their product this year. R. A. Ward, general manager of the group, said that prices are now 48 cents, compared to 30 cents last year. Ward said that angora goats are needed in western Oregon for the production of mohair, and that present prices should stimulate a revival in the industry. YOU'RE SURE OF Purity WHEN YOU BUY St. Joseph ASPIRIN WORLD'S LARGEST SELLER AT 10¢ Medford Cleaners 22 S. Central—34 N. Holly

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